

**Antonakos, Mike**

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**From:** Champney, Stuart K <SChampney@fairfieldct.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 12:54 AM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 5251

Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 5251. As a Public Safety Telecommunicator, I believe we deserve this specific "portal-to-portal-coverage".

I have been employed as a Public Safety Telecommunicator, or dispatcher, for the Town of Fairfield for 10 years, during that time there have been multiple occasions where we have been ordered to report to work when all other employees were given the time off. Notable Occasions included Superstorm Sandy, Tropical Storm Irene, and the Blizzard of 2013 Storm Nemo. During those particular occasions, most town employees were excused from work for several days, the exceptions being emergency services. During Storm Nemo, myself and 2 co-workers worked a 24 hour shift, processing and handling emergency calls for service. We did not have the option of missing work or being excused from our work, we were there literally "answering the call".

We are currently not provided portal to portal coverage, meaning if I should have an accident or other similar situation while traveling to and from work, I am not eligible for any workers compensation benefits or other compensation resulting from such an accident. I am hopefully the members of this committee will vote positively for this bill, and continue to recognize the importance of the role dispatchers have in the field of Public safety and Emergency Services in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you so much for your time,

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